GunOta Volume 02 – Chapter 15-19

Chapter 15

Lute, age 10

Equipment : S&W M10 (Revolver)

: AK-47 (Assault Rifle)

2 months after I left the Hod orphanage in the Algio region.
I arrived at the maritime town Grey, where Elle-sensei's younger sister Alle-san lives.
This town's main business is in maritime trade, and is incomparably larger than the town where the orphanage was.
Smack in the middle of town there is the elite residential area, the center of which is the place where the nobles that rule the city live, in the east is the harbor, south is the shops, north is the commoners' residential area, and west is where the things related to adventurers are.

I arrived in town in the evening, I also had lots of luggage.
Looking for Alle-san in this state is certainly troublesome.
I rented a room for 5 copper coins at an inn at the adventurers' quarter in the west of town.
When I get up tomorrow, I'll go to Alle-san's place.

The room I rented was a simple room, it had louver windows, a lock on the door, a bed, a desk, and a chair. It was something like a business hotel in my previous life.
There are cheaper inns, but because I had magic liquid metal (pricey stuff), I chose a place where I can tightly secure the doors.

After I finished eating at the bar next to the inn, I quickly returned to the room to sleep.
I put the self-defense revolver underneath the pillow and lied down.

"……..As I thought, underneath the pillow is no good."

I was a coward by nature so I thought uselessly—what if it accidentally fires. Even though I was tired there were no signs of me falling asleep.
I gave up and took the revolver from underneath the pillow and laid it down on the table.
Thanks to that I was able to fall asleep.
In the end, I slept until almost noon the next day because of fatigue from the journey.

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"Alle? Ah, that good-for-nothing beast girl? She used to live in this place. If it's her, she was sold as a slave as collateral. Because her destination is the demon continent, she's not going to come back alive."

I asked about Alle-san at the address written in Sensei's letter.
The place is actually a back alley.
Maybe because the sun doesn't quite reach it, the place felt seriously wet. If wet laundry is left here for a week it'll sprout mushrooms.

At the roadside there is a drunk waving a beer bottle, a hobo muttering something while leaning on the wall. I can hear a man and woman's angry shouting voices, continued by the sound of something falling violently. Then there's a group looking like the mafia from my previous world suspiciously looking my way. ……. Right now I feel like I'm about to get kidnapped.

Back alleys,slum quarters, brothels——there was this smell of the underworld atmosphere here.

As I found the targeted building I knocked on the door, a sexy human woman turned up who seemed to be sleepy as if she had finished a night shift.
She weared a negligee and on top of that something like a thin cardigan.

Because it is Elle-senseis little sister shouldn't she be from the beast tribe? When I harboured that question and asked, the previous answer came back.

"She's famous around these parts. A problem child who goes drinking, gambling, and *shopping* usually, also causing trouble by getting into debts with her adventurer buddies. She gets into fights quickly, tough against the weak, and weak against the tough. Seriously, she was awful."
"Alle-san is such a girl, right? I understand drinking and gambling, but *shopping*….."
"She likes girls you know. There's this one case where she played nice senpai to this new adventurer girl, got close to her, and when they're in the middle of a quest she attacked her, then bragged about it in a bar."

Being a girl and yet liking girls is…….

"She can't borrow money from an adventurer so she got caught up in dangerous business. After all that gambling she went bankrupt. Being unable to pay back, she was transported to the demon continent as a slave. But that fellow claimed "I have a sister who manages an orphanage! If I borrow the money from graduated children who send a large amount to the orphanage that debt will be immediately returned. Because if its my sister she will absolutely pay!".

Demon Continent—the continent where it's said that the Demon King who hadn't been defeated, even by the heroes of the 5 races, lives. Perhaps because of the influence of the Demon King, the quantity and quality of monsters there are much higher than the other continents. It's common knowledge in this world that if you go to the Demon Continent you won't return alive.

Then, more importantly, the topic of Elle-sensei's existence had come up in conversation.

"Eee, borrowing money from big sister, Alle-san said something like that…!?"
"Everybody knows the story about her sister spending everything she

had to run an orphanage. She talks about her a lot when drunk. But of course, even those guys won't collect money from that godlike sister, in fact, they thought this trash shouldn't get close to her or her kids, so they made her a slave and sent her to the Demon Continent."

Even those guys call Sensei's little sister trash…… well, she's certainly trash if you believe the stories.

"There are people in this world that should not be allowed to live, that are better off dead. I don't know why you'd want to see her, but you should be glad you didn't."
"You're right, I was lucky…."

I came here because of Elle-sensei's introduction, but I was glad I didn't really become her apprentice.
If I did, I would've been squeezed dry with no future in sight.

"You're one of the kids from her big sister's orphanage, right? If you are, then don't tell her any of this, okay. Even if she's trash, she's still her family. Don't even let her know she went to the Demon continent. The world has lots of things you're better off not knowing, anyway."
"Of course. In fact, I'm going to write her a letter and say that her sister went on a journey far far away."
"Big sis likes kids who catch on quick."

The woman smiled wryly and ruffled my hair.
Needless to say, I enjoyed the sight of her breasts swaying underneath her négligée.

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"Well then, what should I do……the plans have been greatly derailed."

I went back to the main street, folding my arms.

There was only the trading district in the main street and there were lots of fairies, beastmen, and humans. I could also see some from the dragon and demon races, though their numbers are overwhelmingly few (They had horns on their heads and bat wings so I thought they were demons).

Moreover the stalls and market were teeming with people.
The sight of kids holding pocket money, standing in line at the sweets stalls were charming.

"I should have become Elle-sensei's sister's adventurer apprentice, but what to do……"

I had three choices.
1. Chase after Snow, and become an adventurer at the town next to the magic school.
2. Go back to the orphanage.
3. Begin my adventuring in this town.

Option 1 is ideal.
As I thought, I want to be with the one I love.
I did tell Snow I'll go see her once she's graduated, but it could be fate that things became like this, and there's also no use staying here with no one to rely on.

But it's tough on my mental state to set off again when I've only just arrived.
Compared to cars, trains, or airplanes, travelling in horse carts is really tiresome.

"For now I'll pick 3 I think. I'll try becoming an adventurer here, I'll go over to Snow when I feel like it."

Luckily I had plenty of cash thanks to Reversi.
If I'm thrifty I had enough to live for a few years.

Having decided that, I immediately went to the Adventurers' Guild.
Right now I'm in the district where adventurers gather.
If I walk a bit, I can see the Adventurer's Guild building.

The Adventurers' Guild building is a 3-story wooden building.
It is about the size of a gymnasium, and adventurer-looking people keep on going in and out of it.

There were mainly Humans, Fairies (Elves or Dwarves), and Beastmen.
Dragon and Demon races were few and far in between.

Because this is a world where the Swords and Firearms Control law obviously doesn't exist, Beastmen with large swords hanging on their backs, Dwarves holding long spears, Magicians clad in robes, and full-armored human-seeming people were intently looking at the notices put up on a bulletin board.

I pushed through the crowd and went inside.

There was a counter, like in a bank or city hall, marked off at regular intervals.
In the space between the marks, there are receptionists talking to adventurers.

"Welcome. What business do you have today?"

As I was restlessly looking around like a country bumpkin, a woman, wearing tribal outfit, a triangle bandana on her head, and a white apron wrapped around her waist, called out to me.

All the girls working as staff for the Adventurers' Guild were wearing the same costume.
Seems like she's an information clerk.

"I'd like to apply to be an adventurer."
"Then please fill in this blank form. Pardon me, but do you need help with reading or writing?"
"I'll be fine. I can read and write."
"Well then, when the number on this token is called, please go over to the counter."

The wooden token was branded with the number "33".

The desks she showed to me was, simply put, six sets of two put face to face like in a bank or post office—for a total of 12 desks placed with equal spacing.

For the sheet of paper, a quill and a inkwell were handed over to be used to fill in the necessary information.

Name, age, birthplace, race, religious faith, rank in case you are a magician, previous job, normally used weapons, used language, used letters, and so on.

The Adventurers' Guild is not involved in any death, accidents or illness, furthermore there is a requirement to pay 1 silver coin as adventurer registration fee.

I read it all without problems and wrote a ○

It took about 10 minutes to fill it all in.

Just then I was called.

"Waiting Guest number 33, this way please."

The receptionist calls me.

The receptionist seems to be from the demon race, with horns resembling sheep horns on her head and a pair of bat-like wings on her back.

She is in her early 20. If it is compared to the former world, she looked like she would have graduated junior college and would be an employed office lady.
The adventurers guild uniform suited her.

I rushed with the paper in the hand in a quick pace over.
The paper and the wooden plate with the 33 were shown to the counter and placed there.

"Please treat me well."
"Please leave it to us. Lute-kun is it? Are there any questions for today's

adventurer registration?"
"No."
"Firstly, though there are no age limits for membership in the Adventurers' Guild, illness, injury, death, and any trouble encountered are the sole responsibility of the adventurers' themselves, are you sure you still want to register as an adventurer?"

Although there is no age limit for registering as an adventurer I would say I'm too young.

If I look around there is no child around my age.
Those I'm nearest in age to are 15 years old.

"It's alright. No problems. So please continue with the procedure."
"Ok. Then the registration fee will be 1 silver coin."

I fetch 1 silver coin from the leatherback, and place it on the wood saucer.

"Well then let me explain what it means becoming an adventurer. Adventurers are ——"

The receptionist begins the explanations.

To summarize… adventurers are jacks of all trades.

Then, there are different fields of expertise, depending on the adventurer.

Those who specialize in monster extermination —Monster Hunters
Those who specialize in ruins and dungeons —Treasure Hunters
Those who specialize in guard duty —Guardians
Those who specialize in fighting against magicians —Magician Killers
Those who specialize in fighting against people —Mercenaries, Head Hunters

Et cetera, et cetera. There are many kinds of specializations. All these are just examples, furthermore they are divided further into several specialities.

Adventurers are, in a sense, a gathering of light-footed specialists (of course, there are adventurers who have several specialities).

The rankings of adventurers are—
Level I
Level II
Level III
Level IV
Level V

—divided into 5 grades.
Beginners are level I.
The highest ones are level V.

"This is Lute-san's Adventurer Registration Tag. The number "I" denoted in the tag is your current adventurer level."

This thin metal tag is a label showing the adventurer's qualifications.
It is about the size of a soldier's dog tag in my previous life.
The name, adventurer level, magic ability, and religion are magically carved on it.

I was also told about what I'm not allowed to do regarding the tag.

Tags are not to be used by anyone other than the tag holder.
Tags are not to be lent out.
Tags are not to be bought or sold.
Tags are not to be falsified, and its contents are not to be modified.
(There is a special prevention magic applied, in order to confirm the tag holder's identity, forgery is made impossible.)

In case the tag is stolen or misplaced, the Adventurers' Guild is to be immediately notified in order to invalidate the tag.

In case the tag needs to be reissued, an interview and a reissue fee (5 silver coins) will be required.

In cases where the tag holder does not follow the above mentioned procedures, he will have his level demoted.

At worst, guild membership will be terminated, and the tag holder will not be able to register again.

Furthermore, if a tag is found during a quest, it is to be brought back to the guild for a reward.

There are 5 ways to receive jobs.
1. Getting a job request by choosing from the posts on the bulletin boards.
2. Getting a job request by choosing upon consultation with a contact person.
3. Getting a job request directly from the client.
4. Getting a job request directly from the guild.
5. Other methods (like suddenly getting rolled up in a job request)

Level I adventurers can not take jobs meant for level V.
Higher level adventurers are also not allowed to take a level I adventurer along when undertaking level V quests.

Level V quests pay quite a large sum as compensation, but those are mostly situations where their lives are at stake. The prohibition exists so that they wouldn't become a burden and because there are cases where, at worst, the precious level V talents meet their deaths.

On the contrary, level V people can take on level I jobs without any problem.
No penalties are imposed.

"But by unspoken agreement, such behavior is frowned upon, and so we recommend you do not do that unless it's absolutely necessary."
"Absolutely necessary, huh… how can it be absolutely necessary for a level V adventurer to take on a level I job?"
"Requests from personal relations… or so, maybe. I think it's extremely rare for level I quests, but if it's level III, there are people who take the job for all sorts of reasons like having free time."

"The levels are raised by the guild in order depending on your efficiency when handling quests. These evaluation criteria are always fair. There

are no distinctions based on race whatsoever. I swear by the name of the Heroes of the 5 Races."

After the heroes of the 5 races sealed the demon king, they let their pupils exterminate demons who were still rampant in the whole world. That was how the Adventurers' Guild began.

Because of that, the outlines of the heroes of the 5 races were branded on the Adventurers' Guild signboard.

"Are there any points of the explanation that you don't understand?"
"It's not that I don't understand, but I want to start a Legion in the future. Could you please tell me if there are any requirements to start a Legion.
"Yes, of course."

The receptionist cheerfully responded to the statement about starting a legion, even though it was made by a beginner.
Such a friendly woman.
For a person like this to become a madonna at her workplace, becoming the object of admiration of adventurers, marrying, and then retiring, surely everyone would give their blessings, albeit begrudgingly.

As I consider such things the receptionist explains the conditions to establish a legion.

"In order to establish a legion the founder needs a level 5 as sponsor and more than two level 4's signatures. In case a legion is raised, every year an amount of money due to proceeds is to be paid as a fixed sum of taxes to the adventurer union guild."

"Why does a tax needs to be paid?"

At that unexpected condition I ask spontaneously in return.

"In return for the taxes paid, you get preferential assignment of good quests or quests that you prefer, and also introductions to talented personnel that you may want."

Indeed for that case it is a merit.

Naturally in case the amount of taxes is swindled, additional taxes have to be paid or in the worst case, the rights of a legion will be revoked. Lastly it was declared that the troubles of the legion are of no concern to the adventurer union guild.

“Well then I will introduce the quests.”

Finally I have become an adventurer!

According to the explanation

In case of level 1 there are weeding, help moving, searching for lost pets, working as a tutor(this is slightly better paid)—— normally you will get 5 big copper ~ 1 silver coin.
If I complete one I will be not troubled about meals and lodging for 1 day.

Level 2 are monster extermination in the outskirts——normally you will get 1 silver coin ~ 3 silver coins.

For Level 3 its needed to go afar, there are high level monster exterminations, guarding wagons, etc. —— normally you will get 1 silver coin ~ 1 gold coin depending on negotiations.
From here on depositing money occurs.
It is a system intended to prevent taking on jobs without actually doing them. The money is refunded after the quest.
Also this becomes beyond the work of an individual.

On Level 4 jobs there are further discussions that are needed. The amount of pay is negotiable. Guarding important people, exterminating magicians with a bounty, etc.

Level 5 are 1 stray dragon,1 giant etc. exterminations.

“Becoming a level IV or V is no longer based on assessment of the individual, but of the team.”
“What is the difference between a team and a legion?”

“Firstly, Legions have Legion names. Teams do not have names and point out the case there random adventurers without acquaintance gather temporarily.” EN: ???

The merit of teams is that there is no particular restriction in numbers, no taxes, and so on.
The downside is that it is hard for them to get assigned good quests that wouldn’t go to the Legions, they also can’t complain if their talented personnel get scouted.

The plus side of Legions is that it’s easier to get good quests and being able to maintain a standard level of competence by way of enrollment tests. Also, they can establish terms for leaving the Legion and regulations, inflicting penalties if those are violated. If the violation is intolerable, the violator can at worst be banished from the Adventurers’ Guild.

There are demerits that let you hesitate in many cases, taxes must be paid to the adventurers guild, once entered one cannot easily slip out after the enrollment and so on.

“For Lute-kun who is a Level 1, you can receive quests like tutoring, pet searching, shopping agent, store helper, assist in public work, medical plant gathering etc. How is it?”
“Is there a quest where it is needed to fight against monsters?”

Although I don’t say it, I want to find out how effective an modern weapon, the AK47, is against the monsters who live in the outskirts.
In my situation I could fight, but bullets aren’t for free.
To earn money is human nature.

“A beginner like Lute-san receives this sort of easy quest to get used to questing and to get proper practice. Getting excessively self-confident in this industry, one could lose his life. I recommend performing from here safely little by little.”
“Of course I understand that. But I want to know to what degree my own strength works from here on. So are there level 1 monster extermination works?”

I look upwards with tear moist eyes.
That posture is made with a child's body.
If an ossan of 30 years where to mimic that he can't complain if he's struck down.

"…haa okay. But please escape immediately when you think its dangerous. You have no more than one life."

After worrying, the receptionist lady submits.
After giving me a warning, a document sheet is taken out.

"Among the level 1, this job is very dangerous. Please exterminate 1 or more of the four legged demons called garugaru. The quests time frame is indefinitely."

When I read the document the garugaru seem to be meat-eating demons who attack livestock and cultivated fields of humans outside the walls.
Because of that the reward is 1 silver coin each.

Regarding high level adventurers the garugaru isn't a big monster but it seems to take time and effort to bring it down.
Additionally to that the reward is low so people with a high level don't get involved with it.

As for low levels, especially level 1 adventurers, it is a formidable enemy who moves fast and is difficult to attack.
Therefore it seems it has become a standard whether or not one can become a level 2 if you can defeat a garugaru or not.

After defeating it, it is necessary to cut the tail from it as proof and bring it to the adventurer guild, whereupon it is converted.
One tail is exchanged for 1 silver coin.

They appeared along the south, west, north, gates and came out of the forest surrounding the fields.
They attack the livestock and the cultivated fields there.

Also, I was told that I need to bury or burn the carcasses of the monsters after defeating them.

Because if I leave the carcasses as they are, other monsters will come to feed on it and multiply.

The recommended way of dealing with them is by using magic potion. Using the magic potion recommended by the Adventurers' Guild on the carcass, other monsters will be kept away from eating it by the odor it emits, that is disliked by monsters living around this area.
Also, because the carcass decomposes, after three days not even bones will remain.

The Adventurers' guild support store is on your left hand side if you exit the guild.
It's recommended to get the magic potion there.
If you show the adventurer tag you get slightly cheaper prices compared to other miscellany stores.

"Well then, please let me take on this "garugaru extermination" quest."
"…… then, please let me see your tag."

The receptionist wrote on the tag with a feather pen that seemed to be a magic device.

When I look at the tag that was handed back to me, there was the job details of the quest written underneath the place where my personal info is.

"Well, please be careful then. Run away immediately if you judge that it's impossible, okay."
"Thank you very much! I'll do my very best."

Then I took on my first quest.

Chapter 16

After accepting the quest in the adventurer guild, I entered the support tool shop on the left of the adventurer guild to buy the monster clearing potion.

The size of the store is that of a convenience store.
Alongside the walls are placed red, blue, yellow, purple, and so forth liquids in bottles, bundles of medicinal plants, various differently sized stones, etc. Each price tag had several numbers on it, among them there were stones that couldn't be seen yet had a high prize pasted on it.

I looked at everything from start to end, then asked the lady sitting at the counter near the entrance about where the potion is.

The lady smiled and took a bottle from the front shelf.
It was a blue bottle about 250 ml big.

I checked the price, it was 1 silver coin.

Expensive!? Too expensive! Isn't this more expensive than magic liquid metal!?

I was about to raise my voice, but held back.
But the lady explained that only a small dose needs to be applied on carcasses. So this bottle won't run out so quickly.

So I paid the price and bought the potion, and asked the tool shop lady where I might buy a knife.
I have a gun so I won't be needing a sword, but I still need a knife.
She told me that the weapons and armor shop in front was a Magician's guild support store.

I said my thanks, then left the store and went into the weapons and armor shop.

A knife is priced at 3 silver coins.
I mentioned about using one to cut off the tails of defeated garugaru, and chose a somewhat thick knife.
While I'm there, I also bought a leather bag to put the tails in.
This one is 6 large copper coins.

Once I'm back at the inn, I made my preparations.

I put the "S&W M10" revolver in my gun belt. Fully loaded.
I loaded the AK-47 with a banana magazine, and confirmed that the specially-made leather sling is in place.

I put two spare magazines in a specially-made magazine pouch on the left side of the gunbelt.
I put two spare magazines, one on each side of my backpack. I also put in a box of ammunition for the revolver.

Moreover, I equipped the knife I just bought on the back of my hip.
With this I am fully armed.

In addition, I put the leather bag, magic potion, a canteen made from magic liquid metal, and a sandwich (crunchy fried meat, tomato-like vegetable, and hard baked egg) in the backpack.

I also took a 500 ml portion of magic liquid metal, just in case. The container is made from magic liquid metal. I carefully sealed it and put it down.
I bundled the monster clearing potion with cloth and put it on top so it doesn't break.

I put the backpack on, slung the AK-47 on my shoulder, and left the inn.

"Well then, I think I should try going out by the west gate and walking around the forest."

I left the west ward, where adventurer-related buildings are, and went out the gate.
I showed my tag to the gatekeeper and was immediately allowed to go outside.

Like that, I walked and left the fields and ranches, then followed the forest's edge.

After about 30 minutes of walking.
100 m ahead, some 4-legged creatures came out from the forest. Three of them.

They had triangular fox-like ears, pointed fangs, and agile-looking thin bodies, their tails spread out like bamboo brooms, and quite a volume of fur.

They look just like stray dogs. So these are garugaru, huh.

In the world of my previous life, the father of combat karate, Ooyama Masutatsu, said “Once a human holds a sword, they finally became equal to cats”

Certainly, a beginner would find it to be a hard fight using swords or spears against monsters showing such hostility .

“Ooooooooooooooo!!!”

The three garugaru took me for prey and ran while howling.
For monsters, a child’s meat is a feast.
I wasn’t even holding a sword, and was lazily walking alone, to them I must look like a “duck carrying an onion”.

But I took the AK-47 down from my shoulder without panicking.

I released the safety switch.
I set it to full-auto.

I pulled the cocking handle, and a bullet entered the firing chamber.
I raised my physical abilities with body strengthening.
I faced the enemy with a kneeling shot pose, my right knee on the ground, and my left foot on tiptoes.

I had the stock on my shoulder.
I turned the muzzle towards the garugaru.

Of course, the garugaru know nothing of assault rifles.
So even with the muzzle pointed at them they did not run, and ran

straight towards their prey.
In order to bring all three of them down, I drew them in so they don't run away.

Only a 30 m distance remained.

I took a breath—I held it so it doesn't interfere with my shooting.
I pressed the trigger.

BANG! BABABABABANG!

The rhythmic sound of firing.
The three garugaru lining up side-to side shot by 7.62mm Russian Shots in the heads and shoulders instantly died and fell down.

The battle ended in less than 10 seconds.

I went closer, keeping my body strengthening just in case.
I poked them with my foot, but there was no reaction.
They are certainly dead.

"That went quicker than I thought…… It's thanks to the AK-47. In fact, it's way overkill for enemies of this level."

I re-enabled the safety on the AK-47 for now, and slung it back on my shoulder.

I pulled out the knife from my waist and removed all the tails.
Taking out the leather bag from the backpack, I put the tails in and tied up the opening.

I sprinkled several drops of the potion I bought at the tool shop on the garugaru carcasses.
I tried smelling it, but to my nose it doesn't really have a smell.
Maybe it's not at a level that can be detected by humans.

I packed the potion and the leather bag full of tails back in my backpack.

Because I put the severed ends on the bottom, the tips of the tails pop out of my backpack.

The fur touches the back of my head.
It felt surprisingly good to the touch.
Doesn't seem like it's going to hinder my battles, too.

"That was amazing just now. You took down a number of those carnivorous garugaru in an instant."
"!?"

A voice called out to me from the forest, I immediately pointed my AK-47 there.

"Wa, wait a minute! Please wait! We're adventurers!"

A man held both his hands up, showing me that he was unarmed.
Additionally, behind that man, two people—one man and one woman came out.

They didn't seem to be hostile.
The man standing at the back had a disappointed expression, but that might just be how his face originally looks.

"Sorry, sorry for startling you. We hid ourselves and came closer because we heard the garugaru howling. We didn't mean to surprise you."

The blonde-haired cat-eared popular-looking man that spoke the first time lightly said his apologies.

It's easy to see from the cat ears that he's from the beast race.
Two short swords were equipped at his waist.

"Nah, I'm sorry too. I inadvertently pointed my assault rifle—my magic device."
"You're an adventurer right? I've never seen your face though, are you a newbie?"
"Ye, yes. I just registered today."

The woman standing behind peeked at my face with great interest.

Her silver hair was cut short, her chest was covered with leather armor but her navel was left exposed. She had brown skin. She was wearing a pair of low-rise trousers.
She was holding a bow, and was carrying arrows on her back.
Her golden eyes had vertical pupils. She looked like she was human, but it seems she was of the demon race.

"Uwaa! Really, a newbie!? Yet you insta-killed these garugaru. We met a guy who easily surpass us again. And he's still a kid, too. What a huge shock, Akent!"
"Being an adventurer has nothing to do with age."
"Ahahaha, that's certainly true!"

The man standing at the back rejected the blonde beastman's words.

The man called Akent had short-cut hair, a muscular body, and also an 180cm tall stature.
The deep cuts carved on his face were silent proof of his experience.
His weapon was a crude longsword that he carries on his back.
From the looks of him, he seems to be a human like me.

He turned his back and returned towards the forest again.

"Oy! Where are you going!"
"…… getting back to the job."
"I'm sorry, Akent is not good with people. It's not that he's angry at you or anything. Well, sorry for interrupting you. Good luck on your quest."
"No, I don't mind. You guys do your best too."
"Wait, you two don't leave me behind!"

Cat-ears went after Akent, the brown-skinned oneesan followed up with a wink and went after them.
I bowed my head like a newbie adventurer toward these senpais.

It seems that normally several people would handle a single quest just like them.
Since I'll soon be going to the town near the magic school where Snow

is, I'll soon be able to go on quests together with her.
Though it's only when she's not busy.

"But in her case, if I called her out she'd skip class and go with me anyway……"

Other than that, I was worried that she'd be easily tricked by other people as her idiot kid transformation went on.
This world is a dangerous place, so it won't be good unless I tell her to be careful.

"Well, never mind about things past. Whatever happens I'm going to be gathering experience as long as I'm here"

Though something unexpected happened, my first fight went with no problem at all.
If the monsters are at this level, I can bring them down easily.

"Well, then I should keep on exterminating monsters before the sun sets."

Putting the AK-47 back, I once again continued walking.

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After that, I continued walking along the forest.
I had good luck, and encountered groups of 4-5 garugaru one after the other.
Of course, I drew them in until the last moment and annihilated them.
Once I had 30 tails, I went back towards town.

I arrived back in town before the sun had completely set.
Bathed in the evening sun, I stopped by at an Adventurers' Guild Exchange Center under the west gate.

The area around the exchange center was packed in the afternoon, it felt just like a marketplace.
Large quantities of scales put inside wooden boxes, rainbow-colored mushrooms, huge horns that felt like steel—and so on, was lined up in large amounts.
The monster parts being exchanged can be turned into fine items. For that reason even merchants had gathered, brimming with energy.

Because I was small in size, I can get to the counter without a problem.

I called out to the old man at the counter.

"'Scuse me, I'd like to have garugaru tails assessed. The amount is 31 tails."
"Hou!? 31 tails is it? All by yourself?"
"Yes, I got lucky and met several groups one after the other."

I handed over the leather bag carrying the garugaru tails to the middle-aged human man minding the counter.

The man continued,

"Please show me your adventurer tag"
"why?"
"I have to temporarily record your transaction information on the tag. If you confirm that information at the Adventurers' Guild, it will be used to grade you for a level increase."

I see, I see.
I said my thanks and took out the tag hanging from my neck.

The man took out the tails from the bag and counted.
He confirmed the number twice, and put 31 tails × 1 silver coin = 3 gold coins + 1 silver coin.
Then, he recorded the information on the tag with a magic feather pen.
Then I confirmed the amount of money and put it in my leather wallet, then received back my tag.

“Speaking of which, what kind of item are these tails going to become?”
“Garugaru tails are flexible and strong, if I had to explain, there are lots of things it can be used for. Also, it can become high-class dusters. The length of these tails, the softness of the fur, the size, either way it would be fine, right?”

Now that you mention it, it can certainly be used as dusters.
Though I don’t think common people will get their hands on one, since he said it was a high class item and therefore expensive.

I left the Adventurers’ Guild Exchange Center and went back to the inn, I temporarily put all my stuff aside and had a meal at the bar next door. Then, I quickly slipped into bed.

I was tired after my first quest.
I can make my report at the Adventurers’ Guild tomorrow, right.

I closed my eyes, and fell into a deep sleep immediately.

Chapter 17

The faint morning sun spilled in from the louver windows and roused my eyes, I woke up.

“Uu……”

It was a bother to get up by myself, when I was in the orphanage somebody would come wake me up.

I took off my thin clothes, and changed them for clothes to go outside.

I wore the gunbelt that was lying on top of the table around my waist. Taking the “S&W M10” in hand, I popped the cylinder out. I confirmed that it was fully loaded.

I also hung the adventurer tag left alongside it on my neck, and put on Snow's engagement bracelet on my left arm.

I told the old man in charge of the inn that I will be staying for another day, and paid him 5 large copper coins.
The bar next door was of course still closed, so I once again bought a sandwich from a cart on the way.

Today's sandwich was made of barley bread, with a cut of salmon-like fish and onion-like vegetables inside.
It cost me 3 copper coins.

I ate while walking in bad manners, and went towards the Adventurers' Guild.
I arrived just as I had finished eating.

Despite being so early in the morning, there are already a large number of people gathered at the Adventurers' Guild.

As I went inside, I was handed a wooden token from the information desk.
The number was "12".
I was definitely earlier than yesterday.

It had not even been 10 minutes, the number "12" was called.
The person in charge was the kind demon race oneesan from yesterday.

"Good morning, Lute-san. What will your business be today?"
"I finished yesterday's quest, and came here today looking for a new one."
"Already? Then, let me see your tag please."

I handed the tag hanging on my neck to the oneesan.
The oneesan received the tag, and confirmed it saying, "I'll be taking care of it".

"Umm, certainly yesterday's quest is… you exterminated 1 garugaru more… fuee!?"

She made a sound much unlike a receptionist oneesan.
She seems to be surprised with my results.
She got strange looks from the other adventurers and coworkers, but remained in confusion without noticing them.

"Y, you hunted 31 all in one day yesterday!? That's too amazing!"
"Is it really that amazing?"

I wanted to raise my level as fast as possible, but I don't know how far garugaru hunting will go towards raising my adventurer level.
Because of that I did my best and kept on hunting, but is it that surprising?

"Of course it is! Listen here, in this Adventurers' Guild, the record for the number of garugaru hunted in one day is 10. And at the time, the person was a B+ ranked magician."

…… Well that would certainly be surprising. A child that's not even a magician hunting 31 garugaru.
Oneesan continued her talk.

"The monsters are also not dumb, they would run away if they sense magic power. So even magicians can't hunt this much."

So that might be why I could hunt that many monsters.
Because the garugaru did not sense magic power, and was faced with a weapon they didn't know of.

The oneesan narrowed her eyes in doubt.

"Did you have someone to help you by any chance?"
"No way, I did it by myself. It was because I had a good weapon."
"Yeah, you're right. If there is a helper with this kind of hunting ability, they'd have more to gain by hunting on their own…"

Having agreed, oneesan edited the tag using the magic feather pen.

"In that case I once again congratulate you. With this quest, Lute-san's adventurer level has increased to level II"

Ooh, it got raised so quickly!

It looks like the Adventurers' Guild made fair evaluations based on results, even if the adventurer was a child.

"Will you be taking a level II quest today?"
"Yes. Please make it a monster extermination quest like before."
"Monster subjugation, is it. Now that you're a level II, you can take quests going inside forests and quests for dealing with stronger monsters. The ordinary subjugation quests posted on the board pay about 1-3 silver coins per monster."

She then listed the payments for eliminating each of the subjugation target monsters.

Garugaru, 1 silver coin.
Goblins, 1 silver coin.
Giant spider, 2 silver coins.
Man-eating lizard-snakes, 2 silver coins.
Orcs, 3 silver coins.

These seem to be the general outline of the monsters living in the forests on the outskirts of the maritime town Grey.

I have defeated GaruGaru's yesterday.
And a long time ago I defeated goblins at the age of 8.
The great spider is a spider that is about 6 times larger than a common spider and attacks living things in the forest as a group.
The man eating lizard-snakes are poisonous, the poisoned prey will be unable to move and eaten by the big snake.
Orcs are 2~3m big demons with low intelligence but with strength and they're resilient.

All of them are fairly strong but probably no enemy for the AK47.
It seems, at level 2 there are no high grade demons yet.

It seems the only one among them i need to be careful about is the poison of the man-eating lizard-snake. But at the tool shop an antidote fruit to that poison is sold and when eaten it immediately neutralizes it.

Once I get outside the Adventurers' Guild it won't be a problem to buy some.

If it's as easy as this, I will be able to do level 2 quests as well.
If I have the modern weapons 'S&W M10' and 'AK47', suppression-like quests don't seem difficult.

It's an easy victory even if there is no particular adventurer teacher.
Alright, I will keep going till I'm level 5 and surprise Snow.

——because I easily rose to level 2 I got extremely carried away.

At this time, I didn't know that there is a trap that would warp my fate on a grand scale.

"Are you alone Lute-kun? In case you enter the forest for the first time I recommend to buy a map in the adventurer supported shop."
"A map?"
"It's for not getting lost in the forest. Unless you are together with a skilled adventurer, it's safer to carry one. The price is 3 silver coins."

For an instant, I thought 3 silver coins are expensive for a map.
But in this world there is no printing technique, everything is handwritten.
It is a consenting price, if I think about it.

However, even if I have the AK47, it's dangerous to get lost inside the forest. I may run out of ammoThe bullets may be used up and there are concerns about food.
I will buy it according to the advice.

"Then since you have become level 2 please return after exterminating at least 2 or more carnivorous garugaru. The quests time frame is indefinitely."

I received the tag where the level 2 quest was carved into the back and recalled something in my mind.

I tell my thanks the reception lady and leave the adventurer guild.

Without delay I will buy the map and antidote fruit, then head towards the adventurer guild supported tool shop.

Chapter 18

After undertaking the level 2 quest I leave the adventurer guild.
Promptly, I go left towards the adventurer-guild-supported-tool-shop to buy the map and the antidote fruit.

As I was about to enter the tool shop I was greeted from behind.

"You, wait just a minute for me. Can we talk for a moment?"
"?"

When I looked behind me, there stood a boy about as tall as me, carrying a backpack.
Pickaxe, lanterns, sleeping bags, and bottles hung from the side of the backpack that he was carrying.

"Nice to meet you, my name is Raachi, of the Dwarf Race. I am a rootless merchant travelling from town to town without stopping at inns."

Dwarf Race.
One of the fairy races that live in the interior of the Fairy Human Continent's west side.
Even when full grown, their size is only about that of a human child.

Even this Raachi guy only looks like a human child at first glance.
If you look closely, he doesn't have a child's charm, but had the air of a little villain in some way.

Speaking in terms of my previous life, he is like a certain ghost mouse youngster.

"Thank you for the courtesy. I am Lute, a human."
"Lute-bocchan is it? Nice name! Since you were going to enter a miscellany store, that means you're looking for something, right? This might be some kind of fate, if you will. Would you like to look at my goods?"

I see, a high-pressure salesman.
I shouldn't be dealing with the likes of these.
I am a Japanese person that can say "No!", if only in spirit!

"I was going to buy them at the Guild support store so I'll have to refuse."
"Don't say that! Just take a look! Just a look!"
"Even if you say that, you intend to make me buy. I'm not going to fall for that trick!"
"Really, I just want you to look! Also, my goods are cheaper than those at other tool shops! So just take a look for a little while!"

He caught my hand and persisted.
But if his stuff is really that cheap, I might even buy something.

"…… well then, I guess I'll just take a look."
"Yes yes, thank you very much! Then, what might you be looking for?"
"Antidote fruits and a map of the surrounding forest."

"I see! Then I can offer you something cheap! Antidote fruits are 1 large copper coin at miscellany shops, but I'll give it to you for 5 coppers! The map is 3 silvers but I'll sell you for 1 silver!"

They're certainly cheap.
Furthermore, the price of the map is just like the oneesan at the counter said earlier, strangely, this guy doesn't lie.
If it's like this, then I wonder if I should buy something.

"You'll really sell them for 5 coppers and 1 silver?"
"Really, I will. There are nasty fellas who'd sell half a map for 1 silver,

then make you buy the other half for 3 silvers, but I'm not one to do something like that. You can check the goods before you buy, if you want."

Raachi declared, puffing his chest.
If he says that much, he might just be telling the truth.

"Got it. Then, antidote fruits and a map, please."
"Thanks for the purchase!"

Raachi puts his backpack down and rummaged in it while humming.
Meanwhile, I prepared the money from my wallet.

"One silver coin, and 5 copper coins…. ah, I only have large copper coins, do you have change?"
"Of course. I'm not about to make a blunder like that."
"Don't cheat me on the change, okay."
"Really, trust me. I won't do that kind of underhanded scheme."

Of course, I was joking about the change.
Raachi seems to understand, and replied rather theatrically.

"Oi."

A large hand gripped Raachi's head.

The one holding Raachi's head was one of the three adventurers I met at the forest yesterday while I was in the middle of a quest—the man called Akent.
Behind Akent, the golden-haired popular-looking cat-eared man and the silver-haired demon-race girl were waving their hands at me while smiling.

Raachi looked up at Akent and forced a smile, turning blue in the face.

"W, well hello there. Ee… my luck today is……"
"Get lost."
"E, excuse me!"

Raachi picked his backpack back up without closing it and ran towards the crowd in panic.
Soon, his figure could no longer be seen.

girori, Akent sent a piercing glance at me.
He scolded me with a menacingly low voice.

“That guy is well-known around here for being a two-bit peddler. He sells trashy tools and maps.”
“I, is that so?”
“He’s a little scoundrel who makes money tricking kids who don’t know how the world works, like you.”
“Thank you very much. You saved me there.”

I gave Akent a polite bow, but his crusty face didn’t change at all.

“For adventurers, our tools are directly related to our lives. While you’re a beginner you should buy things at stores with Adventurers’ Guild marks. Leave the roadside peddlers to your seniors. Beginner kids like you shouldn’t do that, even by accident.”
“I’m sorry……”

He gave a speech in a disinterested low voice.
I hung my head in shame and said my apologies.

“Stop the halfhearted sermon right there. Doesn’t he look completely scared? Didn’t he start becoming an adventurer just yesterday? And isn’t he still a kid? Getting so mad would have the opposite effect.”

The demon-race girl stopped Akent’s speech.

“Sorry, even though this guy is unsociable he likes children. He just can’t leave a little kid like you alone.”

The cat-eared ikemen followed up in a cheerful tone.
Akent turned away in silence, seems like what Cat-ears said is true.
Somehow his face turned red.

"But well, it's good that you didn't get tricked. I am Alcedo, of the cat-eared race. I am a level II adventurer. Nice to meet you."
"Lute-kun of the human race. Level II adventurer. Truly, thank you very much for saving me."

I shook hands with the ikemen cat-ears Alcedo, who had presented his hand.
It seems that adventurers mention their levels when introducing themselves.

"I'm Misha, of the demon race. Adventurer level is II. But, I think maps wouldn't be a problem for someone as strong as Lute-kun."

I also shook hands with the short silver-haired brown-skinned Misha.

"Then that unsociable one over there is our team leader, Akent. A human just like Lute. Adventurer level is III. Hey, introduce yourself."
"……'m Akent."

His 2 companions made a shocked face at that unsociable greeting.

I gave my thanks to them once again.

"Thank you very much for saving me from getting tricked."
"It's fine already. Adventurers are all about give-and-take, see."

Alcedo laughed cheerfully.

"By the way, since you said you needed antidote fruits and a map of the forest, were you going to go into the Grey forest?"
"Yes, I had received a level II quest just a while ago."
"Then, would you like to go on the quest together?"
"With everyone?"

Misha explained with an amiable smile.

"Truthfully, we also received a level II quest yesterday, but the target Orc was nowhere to be found. We even went deep inside the forest, but had no luck whatsoever but it was no use. So, we were talking about

going to a far away place where orcs are bound to exist, even if it would take a day to get there."

Misha bent her body down from the waist and looked at my face.

"So, if it's alright with Lute-kun, how about going with us? I'm uneasy with being the only long-range attack capability. We saw Lute-kun's true strength yesterday, it would be reassuring if you could come with us."

The valley between her breasts flitters in front of my eyes.
Her healthy brown skin.
Burying my head between those silky smooth breasts would feel good, like going to heaven.

(*Nonono! I already have a fiancee called Snow! Don't get confused!*)

Temptation attack aside, it's a charming proposal if you really think about it.
I am still a beginner myself.
There are many advantages of joining their experienced team.

Alcedo supports Misha's invitation.

"It's not really a strictly regulated thing like a Legion, just a temporary team, you don't have to think too hard about it. It's okay to leave in the middle if you don't like it. If you join up, we'll teach you the way to make camp, the lay of the land, and the necessary techniques and knowledge for being an adventurer."
"Uhh…… Why do you have to go so far?"

Toward my obvious question, Misha and Alcedo looked at each other, their expressions changed.

Alcedo replied with an over-the-top answer.

"We saw Lute's power yesterday, we want to pick you up before other teams or Legions could get to you."

I see, so in other words, a prior investment, huh.

Also—Misha added her own reasons.

“When we were beginners we also had some seniors take care of us, they taught us the basics of adventuring. If Lute-kun feels indebted to us, you can take another beginner under your wing when you grow up.”

If you put it that way, how can I refuse.
I let down my guard and bowed my head.

“Please let me be in a team with you all. I might be causing you some trouble since I just became an adventurer, but please take care of me.”
“Yahoo! Now you’re talking! We’ll split up the rewards according to what each of us defeated so we wont come to a disagreement.”

It seems that the preparation of things needed for camp will be left to Akent and the others.
They said that I only needed to buy the antidote fruits and map for today. How nice of them.

“So we’ll meet up again after lunch at the west gate.”
“Understood. See you then.”
“See you later, Lute-kun.”
“……”

I bowed my head at the three who were slipping into the crowd, and once again went into the Adventurers’ Guild support miscellany shop.
Then I bought a map (3 silver coins).
And 5 antidote fruits (5 large copper coins).

I got out of the shop and went straight back to the inn.
I started packing the provisions for my new expedition in my room.

AK-47. 6 magazines.
“S&W M10” revolver. 1 box of bullets.
Map, 5 antidote fruits, spare magic liquid metal (1 liter portion), leather bag for monster parts, a change of clothes, thin blanket, raincoat, potion.
I also bought a travel cloak when I got to maritime city Grey.

“With this much preparation I can throw down 100 monsters with room to spare.”

After finishing all the preparations, I went to the bar next door with the canteen in hand.
I finished my lunch, paid the old man at the bar and asked him to fill my canteen with water.
Now all the preparation is complete.

Just in case, I paid the old man at the inn 3 days’ worth of inn fees in advance.

I walked out toward the west gate with my pack on my back.
The trio was already at the gate.

“Sorry, I was late.”
“No no, we also just got here.”
“We actually came here a bit early, so don’t worry about it.”
“Oi, enough talking, let’s get going.”

Alcedo and Misha followed up in succession.
But Akent just walked away on his own, blunt as ever.

“Good grief, he really can’t be honest….. Sorry, that guy, he’s always like that.”
“Though he really isn’t a bad guy.”

The two was surprised and covered for Akent.

“I get it already, I’m all right.”

He already saved me once.
If I just imagine he’s a tsundere bishoujo in my head, this kind of interaction is no problem!

I took on a level II quest together with my newly-met companions.

Chapter 19

I started becoming an adventurer, and thanks to the AK-47, immediately got to level II.
Then I met some nice seniors and went to challenge a quest together.

I guess I was lucky. I wonder if this is because of my good behavior. No, maybe my natural charm?

Weeell…… there was a time when I thought like that.

“Th, the hell is thiiiiiiiiiiss!!!”

I woke up to find my limbs being tied together.

H, how did it get to this point?

I was sure I met up with Akent (a quiet human man) and the other 2, then went out the west gate and moved along the forest together.
We encountered garugaru several times along the way, but as soon as they saw our numbers and equipment they turned away. Being in a group of 4 sure makes you feel safe, or so I recalled.

Without encountering any particular danger, before the sun went down we set out to make camp.
Akent and the others skilfully dug the earth and made wooden supports for pots with the branches they used for digging.
Then they planted stakes with boxes attached on the ground in all directions as if to surround the camp.
The boxes were magic devices to let us know when invaders were to enter the space they surrounded. It seems to be an essential item for adventurers.

Thus the camp preparations finished and we ate dinner prepared by Misha (the brown-skinned demon race woman).
Barley bread and red soup.

Barley bread is half the price of wheat bread. They were hard and not very tasty, but they become softer when put into soup, so it's recommended to eat them that way.

I did as they said, breaking the barley bread into small pieces, putting them in the soup, and ate them.

Despite its red appearance, the soup was creamy and sweet like stew. I didn't know what meat she used, but the stock was used well and it was delicious—I do not remember anything afterwards.

Then when I opened my eyes I had been stripped of my cloak and shoes, my limbs had been tied and I was rolled down on the ground.
Judging from the wood that was burning, we hadn't moved from that place.

"It looks like you woke up."

Alcedo (the cat-eared blonde-haired beastman) approached me wearing a frivolous smile.
He was holding the AK-47 in his hands.

Akent and Misha followed behind him.
They were each holding the "S&W M10", a banana magazine, and 9mm bullets.

Alcedo continued his talk, smiling frivolously.

"Well, Lute's magic device is really something, huh. Bringing down garugaru and goblins so easily like that."
"But still, you were too hilarious. Going "bang bang bang" like a kid. What are you, an idiot?"
"That's all right, wasn't it? It was fun after all."
"Ain't it."

The 2 men let out a vulgar laugh, “kyahahahaha.”

I know this feeling all too well.

It was just like the feeling of the three dumbasses during the days when I was bullied.

While being aware of fear welling up from deep within, I asked the three who seemed to have changed characters.

“D, don’t touch people’s magic devices without permission. That’s thoughtless!”
“Ha? You still don’t understand where you stand?”

Akent crouched down, looking at me who was rolled down on the ground.

“We dosed up your food and bound you up with rope. Rather, we tricked you, get it already.”
“!?”

I kind of expected this, but…….

“We are all former adventurers. We’re a group of people who broke the guild rules and got banished. We dress ourselves as adventurers like this, and prey on dumb beginners like you.”
“Then yesterday we saw your magic device’s power. All we did was see but it was so awesome, we thought it would make us quite a bit of money. We could get our hands on it safely, oneesan is happy.”

“But still, we didn’t think that you would believe us and eat the food so easily.”
“Right? So we made lots of traps to catch you in, and yet, all those were for nothing. I would have never thought that simply the first sleeping pill would work. On the contrary I thought it was some kind of trap.

Alcedo breathed a sigh, his cat-ears twitching.

Then Akent continued.

“Normally you wouldn’t take an offer of food from someone you just met, since you don’t know what kind of person they are. Generally when you join a team, first you check the adventurer tag, and see if their level is really what they claim. That’s common sense. Just what kind of country bumpkin are you, to not know something like that.”

In Hoad town, where the orphanage was, adventurers rarely ever came.

In the first place, I almost never had any business to go to town, and immersed myself in experimenting and making my guns, so I don’t have any knowledge of that.

Of course, now that it had come up, I never even once confirmed or even saw their adventurer tags.

Why didn’t I realize it, I wonder.

I was supposed to understand that this world is a dangerous place. I had told Snow to be careful since she was easy to trick, as if it was other people’s problem’s.
Thanks to that, it became like this.

This was because I came to this town and wasn’t able to become Elle-sensei’s sister’s student.
If it’s like this, I should have immediately left town and chased after Snow.

“Then, was that dwarf one of your comrades!?”
“That guy, we employed him. Paid him as bait to make us look reliable.”
“It was hard to suppress our laughter when you look at us like we were “good guys” after being helped.”

Misha laughed happily, being reminded of that.

“Kuu——”

I clenched my teeth in regret, until my molars seem like they would break.

"……Now what, what do you intend to do with me? Kill me?"
"We're going to sell you at the Demon Continent. Human children fetch a high price on the Demon Continent. We can get quite some money out of you."

Akent says, the ones being sold to the Demon Continent were mostly adult men who had fallen into debt or went bankrupt.
They were used as miners to get coal, gems, magic stones, iron ore, gold, silver, or copper.

It's like being in a tuna fishing boat in Japan in my previous life.

They mostly meet with accidents there and lose their lives.
There were very few people who could save money and buy themselves back.

If they sweep up children from villages or towns there is a high chance of being tracked since there were so many witnesses. For child adventurers, however, if they went missing everyone would think they got eaten by monsters because of not enough experience.

Lute is going to be a boy toy in the beginning, then once you grow up you'll be sent to the coal mines—so they declared.

"If it's you, we can sell you for 100 gold coins♪"

Misha admired me, looking happy. I'm not happy at all!

(Gimme a break! I'm still a virgin and you want me to surrender my ass!?)

I judged escape was my first priority. So I immediately concentrated magic power in my hands and legs.
It's unfortunate about the AK-47 and M10, but going against three armed adventurers was too much for me.
I thought, once I could cut this rope, I'd concentrate on running away.

——But that hope was immediately dashed.
I could not control my magic power.

“It’s no use. As long as you’re wearing that choker that prevents magic, you can’t use magic power.”

Akent coldly further said.

“Even adventurers without magic talent would try to use body strengthening for a moment once or twice. That’s why it’s obvious that we’d come up with countermeasures like that. We’ve been hunting people for so many years, y’see.”

Goddammit!
There’s nothing I could do.

I was receiving my just desserts for getting cocky and saying “being an adventurer is easy”.

I never thought of any methods to get out of crises like this.

“We’re going to sell off all of Lute’s things, so will you teach us everything about these magic devices?”

Alcedo waved the AK-47 in his hands.

I glared in defiance with all my might.

“Hey, hey, hurry up and tell us. If we don’t know how to use it, it’ll only sell for cheap.”
“Who would tell you something if he knows you’re gonna sell him.”

“Haa? You still don’t know where you stand, do you?”

Alcedo narrowed his cat eyes.

He stretched his hand towards my tied-up finger.

“Eh……?”

cr——ack

————————— ！ ！ ！

Without any hesitation, he broke my thumb.

“Don’t get carried away you damn brat. You got too spoiled because we went easy on you.”
“AAAAAAH!”

He broke my index finger next.

Again, I sensed cat-ears’ hand reaching toward my middle finger.

“I’m sorry! I’m sorry! I’ll tell, so forgive me!”

My face that had been glaring up until now was saying sorry while covered in tears and mucus.

“You went too far, Alcedo. We’re gonna sell him after this, what if he gets injured.”
“He’ll be fine. If it’s just this kind of injury, he’ll be back to normal once he gets healed by a magician at the slave trader. In fact, should I break his legs too so he doesn’t run away?”
“I’m sorry! I’m sorry! Please stop!”

“Tch, so noisy. Shut up. You only got some fingerbones broken. This is why brats are…. If you understand, quietly listen to what we say.”

Being tch’d at by Akent, I kept my mouth shut and silently nodded.

Alcedo asked the question once again.

“Tell us how to use these magic devices. Misha, take notes.”
“Got it. Wait a bit.”

“If you lie…. you know what happens, right?”

With tears in my eyes, I nodded several times.

Once Misha was ready with the memo, I explained the use of the AK-47 and M10.

"—— aha it's that kind of thing."

I answered everything Alcedo asked while bearing the pain in my fingers.

"So we'll sell the AK-47 and M10, but what about this?"

What Akent held in hand was Snow's engagement bracelet.

"It's not like it's got gems in it, might be made of magic liquid metal. Nothing more than trash. Just throw it away?"
"Right."

Akent nonchalantly threw the engagement bracelet into the fire that was still burning.

(*Goddammit! Goddammit! Goddammit! I'll kill you! I'll definitely survive and kill you!*)

With my insides boiling hotter than magma, I carved their three faces into my brain.

"I'll definitely come back and kill you", I vowed.

"We should break the tag and bury it somewhere here. We can't cash it in at the guild anyways."

Alcedo took one of the two knives at his waist and struck the tag on top of a rock with the handle until it broke.

Akent smiled lightly and raised his heel.

"Well then, go sleep until we sell you to the slave merchant. Or rather, go sleep until you become those perverts' toy."

He drove his heel to the pit of my stomach.
Then I lost consciousness.

Like this, I was sold to the Demon Continent as a slave.

Volume 2 end.